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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS
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Improving Housing Affordability and Reducing Homelessness for Youth in Foster Care

California's high housing costs have led to housing instability and homelessness, particularly for low-income Californians looking to secure housing. Young adults, age 18-21 in foster care who are placed in Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs) are responsible for identifying their own housing and are therefore deeply impacted by California's housing affordability crisis. Though foster youth in SILPs receive a monthly aid payment meant to cover living costs, the cost of housing has increased substantially since the SILP was established, and the monthly payment provided to youth in these placements has not kept pace with housing inflation.

In Los Angeles County, ensuring housing stability for youth in SILPs is particularly important. As of October 1, 2022, 1,322 (49%) of the county's 2,693 nonminor dependents were placed in a SILP, the single-most utilized placement. Los Angeles County's rental costs have increased 54% between 2012 and 2022, with the basic rate paid to youth in SILPs, currently \$1,129, having increased 41% over the same time period. In some California counties, rental costs have increased as much as 113%.

For many youth, this inadequate monthly payment has left them unable to compete with other low-income Californians looking to secure housing and has impeded their ability to cover costs

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outside of rent. According to the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study, 40% of youth residing in SILPs reported their monthly budget was insufficient to cover rent and expenses such as utilities, transportation, and food.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) has introduced Assembly Bill 525 to improve housing affordability and decrease homelessness among youth in foster care who are placed in a SILP. The bill would establish a “SILP Housing Supplement,” modeled after the Housing Supplement established in 2020 for the Transitional Housing Placement for Nonminor Dependents, which was implemented on a phased-in basis and took effect in Los Angeles County on September 1, 2022.

The SILP Housing Supplement would augment the monthly rate paid to youth in SILPs based on Fair Market Rent, which is the system developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to determine allowable rent levels for individuals who participate in their Housing Choice Voucher program. The SILP Housing Supplement would be calculated annually and would vary based on the cost of housing in each county. The methodology for calculating each county’s SILP Housing Supplement would ensure that youth are paying no more than 30% of their monthly SILP payment on rent.

According to the bill’s sponsor, John Burton Advocates for Youth, establishing a SILP Housing Supplement would cost the state \$16.5 million (General Fund) and would additionally draw down approximately \$10.8 million in federal matching funds. No county contribution would be required for the SILP Housing Supplement.

If in place currently, it is estimated that this proposal would establish a \$772 SILP Housing Supplement for Los Angeles County youth, increasing the amount of the monthly payment youth receive from \$1,129 to \$1,901. Annually, this would bring approximately \$12.2 million to youth in Los Angeles County. This additional funding would ensure that youth in SILPs in Los Angeles County are using no more than 30% of their income on paying rent, based on current Fair Market Rent amounts.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to support AB 525 and its companion \$16.5 million (GF) state budget request and authorize the County's Sacramento advocates to take the appropriate legislative advocacy actions to advance this measure.

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